

THE KOREAN REPOSITORY.

FEBRUARY, 1892.

KOREAN SCHOOLS.

THE subject of educational work in Korea is somewhat limited in that the native schools are few in kind and very similar. There are three kinds of native schools, the Chinsa Hak Dong,* (school) the Keung Hogwan, and the common or private schools. In all of these schools the Chinese language only is taught, there being no schools for teaching the native language. The latter is picked up or learned by the child from its parents. It hardly need be said that a knowledge of the native language is not considered education. It is only the man who knows Chinese who is regarded as a scholar.

There are no schools whatever for the education of girls. The little they may chance to learn comes from their mothers. The Chinsa Hak Dong is considered of first importance by the Koreans. There is only one school of this kind. It is located in Seoul and is open to those only, who have the title "Chinsa". This school is fed by numerous schools of a lower grade which are scattered throughout the country. In the city of Seoul there are four of these feeders: the South, East, West and Center Hak Dongs. Throughout the country each district of a province has one of these lower grade schools which is similar to the same grade in Seoul, with the

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exception that they take rank more nearly with the "Chinsa Hak Dong". This is probably due to the fact that scholars in the country schools are allowed to remain in school after they have acquired the title "Chinsa". In Seoul one who has been created Chinsa either drops out entirely or enters the head school (Chinsa Hak Dong). Any Chinsa from the country may enter the head school in Seoul. [All these branches of the Chinsa school are supplied by the government with stationery, and the scholars with rooms and food. The entering scholars, who are of various ages, are appointed by the government of the head school. The studies pursued in these various schools including the head school are the same. There are no teachers. The whole routine has more the appearance of play than work, of a club than a school. The scholars assemble in groups of few or many, read, chat, smoke a friendly pipe and have a generally good time. To use the words of a Korean: "They read, talk science, and make poetry".] It is a characteristic of all the schools in the kingdom that scholars write poetry in summer. The only reason assigned by Koreans for this was that "poetry is nice", the thought being that poetry and flowers are complements of each other. The head school stands high in the estimation of the King. He shows marked esteem for the scholars, so much so, that a memorial from them with regard to abuse of power or negligence of duty has especial claim upon His Majesty's attention.

[In the head school there are some three hundred scholars, the number varying very much from the fact that they come and go at will.] The rules are few and are enforced indifferently. There are instances however where justice is meted out. In case of grievous offence the scholars come together, judge the offender, notify the school officials and bell the man from the place. A large bell is rung and the man is marched out to its doleful music. This is said to be very humiliating. Examinations lasting from ten to twelve days are held in the winter. Those of us who have noted the workings of the Quagga

(national examination) are staggered very little by this array of examination days. It is *parvum in multo*. The officers of the school, few in number, are men of influence appointed by the King or, at times elected by the active members of the Board. This school has been handed down through many generations. Its origin belongs to the long ago—which has swallowed up so much Korean history.

[The second school to be noticed] is of much less interest than the first. It [is of recent origin.] It was founded a little later than the Royal Korean college [and is located in Seoul. It is composed of younger men without rank, and as far as educational purposes are concerned is much superior to the former. It has more the character of a school. The King appoints the scholars from the best families and also appoints able teachers of Chinese.] The studies are the same as in the China Hak Dong and the general rules quite similar. Leave of absence by the day or month is granted when an excuse is presented. The meaning of the term *Kyeng Hogwan** is a pupil of certain Confucian writings. The writings of this famous scholar are the basis of all school work. The beginner learns his first lesson from a book of characters compiled, as he assures you, by Confucius, and uses largely the same author throughout his studies. Scolding is the common method of upbraiding refractory scholars.

[The other school] to be noticed [is the common or private school which is for boys who are beginning Chinese. In the wealthier families the son or sons have a private teacher] who is nearly always a scholar from the country. The opinion prevails that country scholars excel those of the city and so it is that the wealthy families and what we may call club schools secure country teachers. [Eight scholars are considered the maximum for one school where the best results are to be secured, and when we consider their method of studying

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aloud we are not surprised that small schools are recommended. The pupil is under the control of the teacher and when there is occasion the teacher may punish the pupil to any extent he may see fit. This he does with the sanction of the parents. The common method of punishing is to whip the calves of the leg with a switch. One authority however states that at times that closer application is administered with which every child, whose mother is of puritanical descent, is familiar. [In these schools each scholar pays about 400 cash a month, which sum constitutes the teacher's salary. There is no doubt but that the hardest work is done in these beginning schools. The boy is given so many characters to learn each day. One day the advance is learned and the following day the youth stands before his teacher and recites verbatim the work of the previous day.] All day long the boy or boys as the case may be, sits and bawls his lesson as though he would convoke the shades of his great literary benefactor. [The study of the radicals of the Chinese language gradually merges into reading the various Confucian writings. As soon as composition is begun the summer is devoted to writing poetry as in the higher grade of schools.] Summer vacations are short at longest. More often, in the Primary school no regular vacation is given. [The boy begins work when about six years of age and continues until he is nearly twenty.]

A VISIT TO A FAMOUS MOUNTAIN.

As I was told at a monastery near by that I was the first foreigner who had visited this noted mountain, it may prove of interest if I relate my experiences while there. As to the question of where it is, I would state in the province of Chung Chong, perhaps ten miles south of Kong Ju, the capital, a little off from the main road that leads to the south. Kay riong san is a notable mountain, whether for itself, or for its venerable monasteries, or more especially because it rises not far from the spot which tradition tells us is to be the site of the future Seoul of the next dynasty, whenever it comes. The natives put it thus. The founder of the present dynasty had determined to locate his capital there, and had been three days at work on the walls, when the mountain spirit warned him off. The site was not for him. He must locate at the present Sequ. The property was being held for the dynasty that would follow his own. And as His Majesty had no desire to get the ill-will of the local deities, he prudently withdrew his claim.

The mountain is magnificent; as high as Pyok Han to the north of our city. But instead of a cluster of glorious peaks, there is a succession of perhaps a dozen of such peaks in picturesque irregularity. On the side of our approach they were green with splendid timber to their very summits. I think that one gained a vividder sense of their majesty, because that from the plain the eye swept up over comparatively unbroken slopes of green to the tremendous peaks above. I cannot soon forget the approach to the monastery at the foot of the mountain.

Splendid trees centuries old lined the avenue, through whose interstices came the sunlight and glimpses of the majestic green mountains. Birds were singing, while here and there could be heard the music of cascades. We arrived at the monastery. Here were buildings that were erected at the time when our fathers wore armor or wolf-skins in the train of Emperor Charlemagne a thousand years ago. One temple into which we looked, that was six or eight hundred years old, impressed us as having been built when Buddhism was in its glory. The fine large statues of the three Buddhas and of their attendants beside them, together with the platform on which they were placed, towered aloft some fifteen feet. The wooden frame which held the drum of the monks consisted of two very well carved dragons. In another building was the finest bell I have seen in Korea. Upon its sides were carved the names of the faithful who had given it. It hung from its frame by a loop of well made dragons of bronze. In one of the thousand year old buildings time had been unkind to the Buddha. Half of his dainty moustache was wanting, and the gold was gone from his fingers. In another building were four large pictures of noted priests. One with a flowing black beard represented Sa Miong Tong, who it is said went to Japan, in the days of the invasion, and by his magical arts intimidated the Japanese into concluding a peace with Korea. Such is the tradition. The persimmons growing at this monastery were the finest I have eaten in Korea. We saw a foundry in which the monks make kettles such as the natives use for the cooking of food. Apart by itself in a rather wild place rose a curious iron tower. Iron cylinders perhaps two feet in diameter were placed one upon another to the height of ninety feet. Two tall stone slabs helped to support the tower. The last ten feet of the cylinders leaned away at an angle from the almost perpendicular shaft. The top of the column had an ornamented capital. I could get no satisfactory

explanation of the shaft. In another spot we saw a small pagoda upon whose shelves sat a number of little stone Buddhas, some with heads and some without, but all of them serene in posture. I glanced into one of the monastery kitchens. Above one of the huge cooking places, painted upon the wall in bright colors, was a kitchen god. He had the look of a large well-fed Korean seated in a chair with a couple of attendants beside him. After tiffin my Korean friend proposed that while our horses went around we follow the path over the brow of the mountain. A look at the steep tremendous peak five miles away filled me with no great enthusiasm. However we went. A slender young monk put on a yellow peaked sun-bonnet and led the way. He had but recently come from Seoul to take up the life of a monk, and the poor fellow was evidently home-sick. We had been climbing some time when we came to another monastery. Its gilded Buddha sat in a glass case. Here we had a change of guides. He was a fat young monk, as merry as an early spring robin. Up we zigzagged over a rugged path. At the summit was another monastery in whose court, strange to say, stood a Japanese glass street-lamp. Here I saw an elderly monk, the first really ascetic Korean monk that I have met. His head was shaven, his face looked thin and worn, and his manners were beautifully gentle. After a rest we took in the splendid view. To the north and south were a profusion of mountains. Southward we looked over nine successive peaks. Westward the country stretched in a comparatively unbroken level to the sea.

A third bright young monk led us down the mountain to the large monastery at its foot where we were to spend the night. In the dim twilight of the following morning we heard a tap-tap, tap-tap, tap, tap, as the wooden part of the great drum was struck. Then came the loud sound of the drum. Then the boom of the great bronze bell, which sounded now

and again during the strange monotonous chant of the monks that followed. It all seemed very weird to one's half-awakened senses. Later we visited the famous plain to which allusion has been made. Two monks, one in the yellow begging hat, shaped like a bowl, and the other in the ordinary wide-brimmed, round-crowned, black, monk's hat, who had occasion to go in the same direction, showed us the way. Presently we found ourselves climbing the mountain, green with bushes and grass. We were entering by the western approach. Not far from the top of the ridge we saw a brook that slipped fifty feet down a slope of rock at an angle of forty five degrees. From here our path led down a valley that furnished one of the roughest pieces of road that I ever travelled. The brook that went with us was falling all the time, and it was with the greatest difficulty that we kept from following its example. One of our party did rest for a time in one of the puddles of the road. One of the many cascades of the valley deserves particular mention. To view it well required a visit in one's stocking feet. The wide brook dropped with a sheer fall of twenty five feet into an oval pool that was green in color and of unknown depth. The natives say that in the depths of the pool sleeps a male dragon. Presently the rocky road opened upon a great plain. As we travelled through it, we saw where the canal had been begun that was to have crossed the city. Soon we reached the place where huge cubes of stone lay about the plain in careless disorder. These the ancient king had cut and brought from the hills, when he thought to build his city here. Under almost every block of stone holes had been scraped. It is said that the natives at one time brought nails and placed them under the stones, in the belief that by doing so they would be rid of disease. But doubt having been raised as to the value of the remedy, the nails were all dug out and used. As we looked about, this place was pointed out as the spot where the palace was to have stood. And from yonder knoll the great

bell was to have tolled its warning that day was done, and that the stream of life throbbing through the great gates must rest until the morrow. But what a site for a city! An enormous level plain, amply sufficient to hold a great population, wonderfully fortified by the hand of God in the mountains that he built about it. To the north were grand rugged mountain heads. To the east and west more regular ridges. To the south the plain opened out upon a chorus of peaks of all heights and sizes. The east, north, and west approaches would probably have been difficult. But from the south the city would doubtless have been easy of access. Had the founder of the present dynasty placed his capital here, he could have made for himself an almost impregnable city; but his choice of Seoul was undoubtedly wise, for he gained thereby a capital of far more central location.

DANIEL L. GIFFORD.

THE JAPANESE INVASION.

II. DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS.

SUCH was the nation to which Yashuhiro was accredited. Yashuhiro's instructions were to demand a restoration of the intercourse and relations which had formerly existed between the two nations. There is no explicit statement of the purpose of the Taiko in these diplomatic negotiations, but from the conduct and instructions of his envoys it appears that he hoped to induce Chosun by persuasion or threats to join him against China.

Yashuhiro reached Chosun in 1588. A rough warrior of the fiercest type he was hardly the man for a diplomatic mission. He was better acquainted with the etiquette of the camp than that of the Court; he could have carved his way into the palace at the head of his clansmen, but win his way in by his wit as a diplomat—never. Familiar with the stirring scenes of life under Hideyoshi's gourd banner, accustomed to strike friendship with men who wore iron instead of cotton and silk, he could not but view with the air of a disgusted superior the effeminate Chosunese, while they on their part could not understand this rough, harsh man who cared neither for feasting, wine, nor pleasure and who answered exactly to their idea of a barbarian. Many as were the difficulties which beset his mission, tact and skill might have been successful; but by boorishness and discourtesy he not only defeated his own mission but so ensnared everything that, if any possibility had existed of inducing Chosun to join Japan, it was forever lost. He was debarred

the presence of His Majesty and after a tedious delay was given a message to Hideyoshi stating that as "Chosun was unfamiliar with sea roads, an embassy could not be appointed for they would not be able to find the way to Japan".

Returned to Japan, his report only incensed his imperious master; whether because of rage that Chosun should thus covertly defy him, or actual suspicion that Yashuhiro had proved traitorous Hideyoshi charged the grim warrior with having betrayed him to the Peninsular authorities and caused him and his family to be put to death. Thus ended in a tragedy the first of the diplomatic negotiations.

The year 1589 brought a second embassy from Hideyoshi to Chosun. It was composed of Yoshitoshi, another Tsushima noble, Gensho, a Buddhist priest and Tairano Tsuginobu. The difficulties they had to encounter were many and embarrassing. The coming of Yashuhiro had created a division in the royal Council which hopelessly bewildered that body until it was broken up by flight from Söul, and this division in no wise benefitted Japan. The envoys however were received with great courtesy and hospitality and quartered at the Nam Piul Koung, a palace still used for ambassadors and which was last occupied by the special Chinese envoy of 1890.

They were not admitted to the presence of the king, and Chosun's reply after the profuse hospitalities was: "Return to us the vile criminals who have found a refuge from Chosunese justice in Japan and we will consider your proposals". The Japanese reply was "We'll do it," and as fast as wind and wave could carry him Tairano sped back to Japan and laying hands on every Chosunese he could find brought back 164 men,—160 Chosunese and four Japanese, notorious pirates on the Peninsula coast. The Chosunese were astonished, but the Japanese had caught them. The King himself sentenced the men thus strangely brought into his power, and it was at their trial that the Japanese envoys for the first time entered the royal

presence. Things were better from that time, and at last the Chosunese announced that an embassy would be appointed, and the Japanese, presenting His Majesty with some pea fowl and some guns returned to Japan. This was the introduction of fire-arms into Chosun, and the guns of today are still modelled from those presents received three hundred years ago.

In April 1590 the Chosunese embassy was appointed. It consisted of Whoan Yun Kil, Kim Siung Ill, and Hō Sungi, a most unfortunate company, hopelessly divided in itself, and continually quarreling in the face of difficulties which should have united them as one man. They arrived in Japan at an unfortunate time, for their great host was away in the north "putting down opposition" and they were compelled to wait five months before they could see him. During this period they met with some rude treatment from their soldier-entertainers, and their report of their stay in Japan is a mixture of doleful wail and savage remonstrance. They at last received the famous letter of Hideyoshi in which he demanded Chosun's alliance against China, and after much remonstrance and several efforts to have such an insulting (to the Chosunese) suggestion expurgated, it was accepted through the weakness of the senior member of the embassy, and brought to Sōul. A bomb exploded in the midst of the royal apartments could not have occasioned more consternation.

Hideyoshi followed his letter with another embassy, composed of Tairano and Gensho. They reached Chosun in the leap month of 1591 and the former cordiality and hospitality was even surpassed, though this only hid the perplexity and unfriendliness of the Chosunese. They demanded Chosun's answer to Hideyoshi's letter and were given a letter of rebuke for his audacious suggestion of war with China. In this letter His Majesty said:

"China ever welcomes Chosun as though they were one

nation, and whenever difficulties have arisen, mutual assistance has secured a settlement. We are as the family of one house, esteeming each other as father and son. And this must be known in Japan, for it is known throughout the world."* This letter determined the Taiko. His troops would march via Chosun, and teach the haughty authorities of the Peninsula a lesson by the way. A stern letter of denunciation was written and So Yoshichika commissioned to deliver it.† He came as far as Fusan, where he handed it to the local authorities who forwarded it to Söul. It was totally ignored, possibly because the envoy failed to deliver it in person. After waiting a reasonable length of time for an answer he commanded all Japanese to return home and departed himself. Thus ended the diplomatic negotiations.

Let us now notice briefly negotiations in another direction. Conservative counsels had prevailed in the Royal Cabinet at Söul, and it was decided to await further developments before saying anything to China of this ambitious project of Japan. However the Tribute-bearer was commanded to drop a hint in Peking that Japan had some project on hand. And it was well such an order was given for just as soon as he crossed into Chinese territory he found himself in an unpleasant position. It seems that soon after the departure of Yoshuhiro for Chosun, an embassy from the Liu Kiu Islands arrived in Kioto with tribute. Hideyoshi commanded them to advertise the prowess of his arms in China and to advocate a peaceable concession of any demands he might make. The Liu Kiuans did so and succeeded in arousing China's suspicion of the Peninsula. Quick to grasp the situation the Tribute-bearer, Han, announced that he had a special message concerning the whole matter. What he told the Chinese we do not know. We next hear of him as special

Ambassador to Peking to announce that Japan proposed to invade China and had invited Chosunese co-operation. Arrived in Peking, so great was the interest felt in his message that he was invited into the Imperial presence that he might deliver it direct to the Emperor. This was the first time that a Chosunese envoy had been granted an Imperial audience, and Chosun felt so honored that a special embassy was commissioned to thank His Imperial Majesty for his kind favor and to give him in detail an account of the matter from its inception until that present time. Thus was established, the historians tell us, the custom of receiving the Chosunese envoys in Imperial audience at Peking.

GEO. HEBER JONES.

TO THE YALOO AND BEYOND.

II.

AFTER a Journey in all ~~some~~ 200 miles, we sighted the historic city of Ping-yang. It stands on the right bank of the Yatong river which here flows south. The approach through an avenue of trees skirting the river bank, and the white walls of the city showing up on the hills just ahead, inclined us doubly in favor of Hpingyang. The crossing once made, we entered the east gate into perhaps the busiest city in Korea. No amount of business however is of interest compared with its antiquity, its history, and the part it must have played in the centuries long ago of which no record remains. To Koreans it is all sacred ground, for this was Kitja's home, somewhere about the time when King David reigned in Jerusalem. People here speak of Hpingyang as the boat-shaped capital. The walls were outlined on this plan by its first founder, and it is still the floating city. No one is supposed to dig for water anywhere inside of the walls, as that would be cutting through the bottom and sinking the ship. For this reason all water is carried from the river, even to the most distant quarters, and the peculiar gait of the water-carrier is one of the oddities of the street. The streets we found to be as usual narrow and filthy, and crowded with shops of native wares. The people whom we had often heard to be more warlike and independent than other hermits seemed to us in their appearance and disposition a very ordinary lot, perhaps a little less noisy and somewhat more

polite than the natives of the south. Among the hills to the north we find the Buddhists. They have a perfect citadel here of temples and towers, commanding an excellent view of the river. Its beauty and strength of situation gives one an idea of the power Buddha once had in Chosen.

To the south, offsetting this is the waysung (outside city) where the ancient palace was, and where the descendants of Kitja's generals still exist. These sons of the past, look upon all ranks of today as but the merest ghosts of nobility. Like the Jews they feel that they are still the Chosen people. So they and the Buddhists live shut off from the city by massive walls, and off from the world by centuries of time. One might think that they would enjoy each other's company, for we could scarcely choose companions more likely to be congenial than an aged priest and an old soldier.

For the few days that we remained here we were followed by an innumerable company of spectators, whose outbursts of laughter as we walked along seemed to betoken something extraordinary in our personal appearance. Nevertheless we walked the streets until we made our final exit in safety through the north gateway, where a grove of trees shadows one of Kitja's graves (he is said to be buried in China and elsewhere). Snow had fallen and the roads were muddy and unpleasant. A few days more carried us out of the flat valleys past Aucboo and Pakchun, to where the road was lifted high and dry, with glimpses of the Yellow sea off to the left hand.

We spent a pleasant day in a town called Kasan and when we left, a few of the natives saw us safely out of the village and then fired stones after us. Fortunately they did not throw with the same precision that they do in Whanghai and so we are here to tell our story.

A little later we passed a mound of some interest called the "Speaking Grave", which came by its name in rather an

extraordinary way. About a hundred years ago there came by here a traveller, who, through some unexpected delay was overtaken by night. He saw before him the craggy pass over which we had just come, and fearing that tigers might be prowling about there he made up his mind to sleep till daylight, beside a grave that he found among the trees. About midnight he was awakened by a voice from across the valley, "Hollo! Is n't to-morrow the anniversary of your burial?" Before there was time to imagine what such a question could mean, he heard a reply come from the grave beside him, "Yes, it is my anniversary." "In that case," said the other, "you'll go and see that all the sacrificial food is ready in your home, wont you?" "I would go," said the voice in reply, "but I have a guest sleeping here and cannot leave." "Aha!" said he across the valley, "I see, but then if you go, I'll be host till you return." "Thanks," said the ghost, and all was silent. He went but soon returned, announcing his presence by sounds of fury. "Here already! how so soon?" asked the deputy host. "Fiends and goblins! what a mess!" was the only reply, and then after cooling off a little he added, "I went to the house, saw the food, and right in the middle of it all, what think you? a snake coiled about! Immortal kouisin (demons) take my youngest grandson this night! I'll teach them to dish me up snakes." The ghosts expressed mutual horror, and then all was silence. When morning came our traveller hurried to a village near by and inquired about the man buried yonder, who he was, and where he had lived. Arriving at the home he found it was indeed the anniversary of the old man's funeral. Breathlessly he inquired if all were well. Alas! no! their little boy had been drowned that night. He then explained what he had heard in the valley, and what the cause of it all had been. "A snake in the food! A snake! where?" they asked, "where?" Searching carefully each dish they found nothing that could resemble this except a long hair, which they at last concluded

that the ghost with his transcendental vision, must have taken for a serpent. The Speaking Grave is now carefully guarded, and is one of the sacred groves on the way north.

In the town of Yong-chun, our attention was called to a peculiar custom that I have seen nowhere else in Korea. We had stopped at an inn, filthy beyond all description, and after getting seated on as clean a spot as possible we noticed what might be called a dagger, on the ridge-log above us. This seems to have been a custom handed down from long centuries ago. If some one in the village dies on an unlucky day, they say that the soul travels about entering other homes with intent to carry off the living. On entering he glances at the peak log; a dagger sticking there will scare him off and save the inmates.

We felt how invulnerable we were before these imaginary evils, when suddenly we were attacked by enemies that outrival all superstition. It was the old story of roaches and bugs. Koreans say that roaches eat bugs, and again I have been told that bugs turn to roaches when they get old. Of one thing only am I certain, which is this, that both roaches and bugs eat mortal man, and neither one nor the other ever seems to grow old, or transmigrate into something less objectionable.

On the afternoon of March 19th as we were journeying along in a dreamy indifferent way, Saw suddenly called our attention to a range of peaks, that was now dimly outlined before us. "That" said he, "is China beyond the Yaloo." It was the first that we had seen of the Celestial Empire, and our hearts awoke and recalled what we had read and heard of this far-famed land. Suiting a familiar metaphor to our surroundings we felt that long centuries, almond-eyed and cued, were looking down upon us from the height of yonder mountains.

On we journeyed, these gradually rising, and at last towering high up before us as we entered Wee-choo. It is a modest little town, neatly situated, looking south over the Yaloo. It

is quaint and oldfashioned — might be called an Asiatic Antwerp whose life was lived in the distant past, and of which we hear only stories to-day. There were Chinaman here, merchants, and a few Koreans who seemed to be doing a little business but those whom we met all spoke of trade being dead now, saying that there was nothing left to do anything with. Wee-choo like the rest of Korea is down low in poverty, and ready to die of starvation. The products of the soil and manufactures are growing gradually less and less, while the Capital is rolling out its copper cash. On a small scale it reminds one of France in 1774. It is the same old question, will imagined differences of rank destroy the nation, or will the nation destroy them? in other words, is it better to be an immaculate laundried *nyang-ban* (aristocrat), and die of starvation in a dignified manner, or to become a *sang-saram* (low class) and work out one's own salvation with tanned hide and horny hands?

The nakedness of the land too makes one sad. "C'est triste," said a French Father to me when looking at its hills wiped so bare. There is really no timber in Korea. Measure six or seven miles from the far north Yaloo and you take in nearly all the timbered district. There are indeed a few clumps here and there, but none worthy of notice. Only once did we see all the mountains covered. We had reached Hou-tchang the northern limit of Phung-an, and finding our road blocked to the Long White Mountain, we were obliged to turn south. About three miles further on we came to a pass which gave us a magnificent mountain view, and as far as we could see it was all forest, but an hour later the hills were bare again and we felt that we were once more back in Chosen. The natives, on the other hand, invariably speak of there being any quantity of wood. One says, "Look at Nam San!* see the forests there!" So the timber question like some others remains a matter of opinion.

* A mountain inside the walls of the Capital with a few trees on it.

The better class of people whom we met were intelligent, and much more interesting than might be expected. They are not greater fools than ordinary mortals at home, and seem to know the chief end of man about as well as the average Western voter. In travelling one must put up with some inconvenience, for the foreigner is on public exhibition from the time he leaves the Capital until he returns. Again it is refreshing to see a crowd lively, even though one be the cause of it himself, for Korea is such a sleepy land. As to the wisdom or unwisdom of sleeping we should not speak rashly either for it may be as wise to slumber in peace as to rush madly about doing what in the end will all amount to nothing.

After a walk of 350 miles, our boots gave evidence of wearing out, so we decided to take carts from there on to Mukden. The view of China from the Chosen side is expressed exactly by the Koreans—"San way you san san pou chiu." (Beyond the mountains, mountains still, mountains without number). They had told us that there was a road through all this wilderness, that would bring us out 200 miles further on at Simyang (Mukden).

J. S. GALE.

THE OPENING OF KOREA: ADMIRAL SHUFELDT'S ACCOUNT OF IT.

In the fall of 1886, Admiral Shufeldt while in Yokohama, received through Ex. U. S. Minister Packer a message from His Majesty, the King of Korea, "urging me to make him a personal visit." This gracious invitation was subsequently repeated while the admiral was in Nagasaki and was then accepted. The winter of 1886—7 was spent in the Capital, "the guest of the King." This as will be seen from what follows was just twenty years after his first visit, but how different the circumstances. While the Admiral was in Seoul, it was my good fortune to receive from him, on my request, a detailed account of the opening of Korea to the Western world. The manuscript is dated Jan. 29, 1887 and is here given to the readers of the *Repository*.

["In December 1866 I was in command of the U. S. S. *Wachusett* lying in the harbor of Hong Kong, when the news reached Admiral Bell who commanded the American squadron on the China station, of the destruction of the American schooner *General Sherman* and the massacre of her entire crew in some river in the northwestern part of Korea.] This information was brought to China by a French priest who escaped from Korea in a Chinese junk, after the murder of his colleagues and their converts in that country.

["Admiral Bell immediately dispatched the *Wachusett* under my command, to Chefoo with orders after ascertain-

ing all the particulars possible to go to the scene of the massacre, wherever it might be upon the coast of Korea. I found that the *General Sherman* had sailed from Shanghai under the command of a certain Captain Preston, who was well known as an adventurer and who was the only American citizen on board. The Supercargo was, as I remember, an Englishman and the entire crew were Chinese. The ship was laden with muskets, powder, and other articles which were contraband and had evidently sailed on a marauding expedition. While in Chefoo, I engaged the services of a Chinese pilot, and an American missionary * familiar with the Chinese language volunteered to accompany me. Taking the ship directly across from Chefoo and after carefully navigating the unknown waters of the coast, we anchored, some time in January, opposite a small town, which the Chinese pilot said was at the mouth of the Ta Tong river. From this point I addressed a letter to the King of Korea, asking him the reasons of the destruction of the *General Sherman* and the murder of the crew, expressing my surprise at the barbarism of the act, particularly as I knew that on the previous occasion of the shipwreck of an American vessel, the government of Korea, had transported the crew, with all of their effects with great care to the boundary of China where they safely reached their own country. After some day's delay, we succeeded in getting the official of the village before mentioned to send this letter to the Governor of the Province, with the request that it might be forwarded to the capital of Korea. After a further delay of some days, the messenger returned † with the reply that my dispatch had been forwarded, but that it would take at least twenty

* The Rev. Dr. Hunter Corbett, of Chefoo.

† It is said the Admiral had no little difficulty in finding one willing to carry a message for a foreigner. Finally an old man was found, but so great was the feeling among the neighbors that he received a severe beating at their hands on his return. I have heard it stated that he was beheaded, but this needs verification.

days at that season of the year to obtain an answer. [Meanwhile our intercourse with the people had not been of an unfriendly character, and we had been informed that the *General Sherman* had wilfully and under constant protest ascended the Ta Tong river; that finally, the crew landing and behaving in a lawless manner, were attacked and murdered by an enraged mob, which was entirely beyond the control of the authorities.]

"It may be as well to state here, that for centuries the Chinese junks had been in the habit of coming over to Korea for the purpose of robbery, stealing their ponies and cattle and cutting the timber. In consequence of these things the Chinese were intensely hated by the Koreans. Meanwhile we had also ascertained, that the point of our anchorage was not as we supposed at the mouth of the river where the affair had occurred, this river, in point of fact was about thirty miles north of us. After remaining at our anchorage for ten or fifteen days from the despatch of the courier, finding the ship was gradually being frozen in, and apprehending that we might not be able to get out until spring, by which time our provisions would have been exhausted, I determined to leave without waiting longer for a reply, with the intention however, of returning later in the season after re-provisioning. [On reaching Shanghai I found to my regret, orders for the ship to return to the United States, her cruise having expired. From that moment, however, I conceived the idea and considered it possible to make a treaty with this Hermit Nation without the exhibition of force.]

Finding that his ship was about to be frozen in, he left.

"It may be as well to state here, that in the ensuing Spring (1867) the U. S. S. *Shenandoah*, under the command of Captain Febiger, did ascend the Ta Tong river, where he received a copy of the reply to my letter, the original having been sent to Peking to my address. [This letter was so statesman-like in its character, and bore such intrinsic evidence of the truth of its statements that both Captain Febiger and

I were convinced that the attack upon the *General Sherman* was made by an unauthorized mob under strong provocation. This letter was forwarded from Peking to Washington and reached there when I had again left the United States on other duty. When I did get it—a year or two afterwards—circumstances prevented me from taking the matter of a Treaty with Korea into further consideration.

“In 1871 a naval expedition, under command of Admiral John Rodgers and by the direction of the American Minister at Peking, Mr. Low, landed upon the coast of Korea, made an attack upon the defences at the mouth of the Han river, as a matter of reprisal for the burning of the *General Sherman*! I was satisfied at the time, that if that unfortunate affair had been properly understood, this expedition would not have been undertaken. It however accomplished nothing, on the contrary it was an obstacle in the way of obtaining a treaty by peaceful means, which intention I did not even then abandon. [In 1878 I finally obtained consent of the Secretary of the Navy to take the U. S. S. *Ticonderoga* on a commercial and diplomatic cruise around the world—the final object being to make a Treaty of Amity with Korea. The Hon. John Bingham, then U. S. Minister to Japan, was directed to ask the co-operation of the Japanese Government for this purpose. After an interview with the Japanese Secretary for Foreign Affairs, at Tokio, I proceeded to Fusan and addressed a letter to the Government at Seoul,] reminding that government of my former letter in 1886 and the occasion of it, and asking if a Treaty with America could not be made for the protection of American life and property on the coast of Korea.] I found the Korean officials at Fusan very unwilling to enter into any intercourse whatever and the ship, in fact, was placed in quarantine. After waiting some time for a reply I left for Nagasaki, where I received, through

the Japanese government [an answer] to my letter, in which exception was taken to the address I used and it was [intimated that the times were not opportune for making a Treaty with a foreign Power.]

"While thus delayed in Nagasaki, I received an intimation from Li Hung Chang, Viceroy of Chihli, that if I would make him a personal visit, a way might be found to accomplish the desired object. I at once went and had an interview with the Viceroy, the purport of which was finally, that he would send over to Korea and get that government to appoint a commission to meet me at first in China. As this would take some time and as the cruise of the *Ticonderoga* had expired, I agreed to come back to China, after returning to the United States and conduct the negotiation.

"The *Ticonderoga* arrived at San Francisco in Nov. 1880. I proceeded at once to Washington and through the earnest assistance of Mr. Blaine—then Secretary of State—I was sent to China as Naval Attaché to the American Legation, with a secret authority, however, to make a Treaty with Korea. It is needless to go into the particulars of the long delays which ensued, and which are apparently inseparable from Oriental diplomacy. The negotiations were tedious, from the fact, that although the Korean Commissioners were in Tientsin, I rarely saw them, and the affair was conducted through the subordinates of the Viceroy, whose object seemed to be, to make an American Treaty for the benefit of China. The obstacle constantly thrown in the way, was the suzerainty of China over Korea, a point which China had waived, if it ever existed, whenever Korea had come into collision with other powers. After six month's delay, a draft of the Treaty was made, on the basis of the independence of the Korean Kingdom. The Korean commissioners returned to their own country and I, having the authority of the Secre-

tary of the Navy to use a man-of-war, went over on the U.S.S. *Swatara*. Landing at the present site of Chemulpo, and without any display of force, I went to the magistracy of In Ch'un and there meeting the Korean Commissioners—three in number—perfected the Treaty, a rough draft of which had been previously sent to Korea.

“A few days afterwards, the Koreans having provided a tent upon the point* at Chemulpo, I landed with a staff of officers, and a small guard of men. Having peacefully planted the American flag before the tent and to the tune of Yankee Doodle, I signed the first Treaty ever made between the Hermit Nation and any Western Power.] While this was going on, France, England, Germany, and Italy, each with the prestige of royalty, or by the use of threats, were trying to let down the bars of the gates, but I am very glad for the sake of our country that we were the pioneers in accomplishing the feat of bringing the last of the exclusive countries within the pale of Western Civilization. It was as easy a thing to do, as for Columbus to stand his egg upon its end.”

* Captain Philip Cooper who was in command of the *Swatara* told me that the Treaty was signed where the guest house of the Commissioner of Customs now stands.

H. G. APPENZELLER.

REVIEW.

ENGLISH KOREAN DICTIONARY.

Being a vocabulary of Korean colloquial words in common use, by James Scott, M. A. H. B. M's. Consular Service, Korea. Church of England Mission Press, 1891.

MR. SCOTT is one of the oldest students of the Korean language and we welcome this second volume from his pen. In the preface he modestly tells us he does not like the word "dictionary" as it conveys more than he intends, but "for brevity's sake" has accepted it.

The Introduction consists of twenty pages, and shows evidence of careful study. It is concise, compact, complete and probably the best introduction on the language that has appeared in print. It bears careful reading and the beginner can not do better than master it before taking up anything else. Not that everything is said that might be said or that it is incapable of improvement, but as a whole we accept the information here given and are thankful to get so much that is reliable. The consonants, vowels, and diphthongs receive careful if not in every instance satisfactory attention. The verb is taken up next and receives two pages, but "a complete paradigm of the Korean verb with all its possible formations and multifarious meanings would well nigh fill a volume of its own," an opinion every one familiar with the language would not hesitate to endorse. The adjective and pronoun follow and the Introduction concludes with the question, "Corean—what family of Race and Language?"

He does not accept the theory that it is "one of a group comprising the South Turanian and closely allied to the Dravidian language of the Deccan of India". Likewise he rejects the identity with the Japanese language for "as yet all investigation in the etymology of their individual words has failed to disclose any identity or uniformity of roots." When the author comes to "the connection between the Chinese and Corean" he finds himself on "surer grounds", though in his concluding sentence he admits that "the genius of the two languages is diametrically distinct, and between their roots no possible identity can be discovered." We sincerely thank Mr. Scott for this very able Introduction.

In saying this we are not under obligation to accept all that he says. He is wrong in some of his transliterations, some of which are as wide of being correct as are those people who write the word for the

Capital of Corea *Soul* or pronounce it Söwl. Some of his conclusions on minor points need verification.

The Dictionary proper contains about 10,000 English words with Korean equivalents.

Mr. Scott disarms criticism at once for he would have us regard his work as but a stepping-stone to something better, a book to be "super-seded by one more accurate and complete." He has however succeeded well in his effort to give the Korean synonyms, though the book would be much improved had he put in the Chinese character as well.

It has been stated there is no standard for spelling in Korean, but we beg to state there is, and Mr. Scott's exactness in this respect will do much to remove such ignorant assertions.

H. G. A.

EXTRACTS FROM THE DAILY GAZETTE.

RESRIPT OF HIS MAJESTY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF THE CENTRE, SIM SUN HTAIK.

FEB. 16. WE have already expressed our confidence in you in our rescript to your former appeals to be relieved from office. There is therefore nothing more to be said, only that we would have your Excellency fully understand us. Your repeated and continued appeals were unexpected. You have spoken of being unwell. This is the language of old age, and does not necessarily mean anything serious. That you should desire to retire for a season to private life after so many busy years, how could we fail to have thought of this! If we did not comply with your request after all this we should fail to show you the proper degree of consideration. We therefore relieve you from the office of Minister of the Centre only, trusting that you will see in this an indication of our affection, and that you will aid us all the more in the other departments of the government. We deeply cherish this hope. We hand this to you through the office of the Royal Records.

TJENG PEM TJYO, *Hpan pou sa*, will resume the office of Minister of the Right.

FEB. 25. TJENG PEM TJYO, makes his acknowledgement (i. e. enters upon the duties of Minister of the Right).

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A CONTRACT has been made between the Korean Government and certain private parties in Japan, for a period of five years for the coining of money, the latter to furnish a loan of \$250,000 to start with.

The coins are to be four in number: 1st, a 5 *nyang* silver piece, equal to five hundred pieces of either the large cash of Seoul or the small cash of the country of the nominal Seoul value of 2500. This coin will be of the same intrinsic value as the Japanese silver *yen*.

2nd, a 1 *nyang* piece equal to 100 pieces of either of the above cash and corresponding to the Japanese 20 *sen* piece.

3rd, a *two ton o pun* nickel piece equal to five pieces of the above cash and corresponding to the Japanese 5 *sen*.

4th, a *han pun* copper piece, value of one of each of the above cash and corresponding to the Japanese 1 *sen*.

Exchange offices will be established in ports and large cities for the free exchange of cash for this new money or vice versa.

The limit of coinage for the five years will be as follows:

| | | | | | Present cash value. |
|---------|-------------------|---------|------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| \$1. | or 5 <i>nyang</i> | pieces, | 5 million <i>nyang</i> | = | 2 500 000 000 |
| 20 cts. | or 1 " | " | 10 " | " | = 5 000 000 000 |
| 5 cts. | or 1/4 " | " | 17 1/2 " | " | = 8 750 000 000 |
| 1 cts. | or <i>han pun</i> | " | 7 1/2 " | " | = 3 750 000 000 |
| | TOTAL | " | 40 " | " | = 20 000 000 000 |
| | <i>Yen</i> @ | " | 2500 for | \$1 | = \$8 000 000 |

THE C. M. Customs Meteorological Return from Yuensan for the month of Jan. reports—Moderate West and N.W. winds prevailed during the month, several light showers of snow (not enough to register). Highest Temp. 48°.2 Fah; Lowest Temp. 1°.4 Fah.

MR. YE KAY PILL (E. K. Field) late student interpreter at the Korean Legation Washington and a graduate of the Columbia College Scientific school has returned to his home at the request of his government to engage in scientific work. He has been given the rank of Chusa.

THE following changes are about to take place in the French Consulate. Mr. Frandin the "titulaire" of the post is expected by the next steamer. Mr. Rocher returns to southern China and Mr. Courant to Peking. Mr. Rocher's family will leave early in March for Europe.

WE had cherished the hope that the students of the language would adopt a definite system of spelling Korean names and words, in short, a system of "romanization," before editorial labors if not duties should daily remind us of the great value of such a system. We have been fully convinced that we had no adequate grounds for such a hope. There are some things that never begin to mend until their condition is as bad as it can be. We have about concluded that the romanization of Korean belongs to this category, and we have therefore made no changes in the MSS. sent in by our contributors, even though it has happened that the same name has been spelled in two different ways by one writer on one page. Nor have we in the few pages we have penned considered it worth our while to follow a particular system, believing that the adoption of a system will be reached soonest by each one spelling for a few years more as may seem most natural or convenient. Personally we should have been satisfied with the system used in the Dictionnaire Coréen-Français and we do not expect to see a system proposed that will meet with more general favor.

It is useless to say that we need not "romanize." Every page of the Repository proves that we must and will. The rendering of proper names alone requires a system of spelling instead of our present hap-hazard dicc-throw of letters. Yet, we repeat, for a while longer this confusion will continue, and may even become worse confounded, but it is hardly probable that anything more far-fetched will be suggested than the insertion of *r* after *e* in *Enmoun* where it fits about as well as at the end of pagoda; nor do we look for anything more quaintly original than the recently introduced Petroleum V. Nasby style of spelling sik-tjen-ei (식전에 before eating) *sick Johnny*, and e-tjvek-keui (어제 yesterday) *odd jockey*, though it is but just to remark that these latter instances are not proposed as samples of a system of "romanization."

PROF. HULBERT'S second paper on the Korean Alphabet came too late for this number. It will be read and re-read by students of the language. A cut of the alphabets he has compared with the Korean will add greatly to the value of the paper.

WE had flattered ourselves that *The Repository* would be the first foreign periodical published in Korea. A few days before going to Press with the first number we learned that our enterprising Japanese neighbours

at Chemulpo had published several numbers of a Tri-monthly in the interests of their people. And more recently we were equally surprised to see a new arrival from the Island Empire taking his bearings in the Capital by means of what we might call a Bādecker in Japanese. The news of the Coinage Contract given above is in keeping with our personal observations. It is evident that some of us will have to set our time-pieces ahead or—fall behind.

DR. H. N. ALLEN, Secretary of the U. S. Legation at Seoul has received an honorary commission to work for the coming World's Fair in Chicago.

WE do not regret that we had no room for an opening "speech" in our first number, having every reason to believe that the aim, scope, and general make-up of the Repository are, thanks to kindly notices by the Press and the efficient services of our well-wishers generally, already sufficiently known.

WHILE it is not our intention to publish a newspaper in the ordinary sense of the word, we repeat that we do hope to give a full and reliable record of current events, relying very largely upon the kindly assistance of all classes, natives as well as foreigners, in the Peninsula. Our pages are open to all who have aught of general interest to communicate.

And while we shall endeavour to avoid controversy in all its objectionable features, we invite criticism and comment on all topics discussed in our pages.

We have printed a small supply of extra copies for new subscribers. Let such send in their names as early as possible.

THE Seoul community has recently been favored with a number of distinguished visitors, all of whom took an intelligent interest in Korean affairs. Francis M. Bacon, Esq. member of the American Geographical Society, on his tour round the world spent a week "doing" the sights of the Capital and finding his time too short to do justice to the place supplemented his efforts by subscribing for the Korean Repository. His name heads our subscription list.

Captain Goold-Adams of Hongkong passed quietly through on his way north where he ascended the Paik Tu San. When he returned he had many interesting incidents of travel to relate. We hope to give our readers